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Histadrut threatens mass strike over Rafael dispute

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut is threatening to declare a labor dispute as a prelude to a general strike in all the defense industries, unless the Treasury signs an understanding concerning the future of Rafael's workers by this morning.

Negotiations between the Histadrut and Treasury representatives continued until Friday night and resumed last night, in an effort to reach an agreement over Rafael's workers' wages and terms of retirement.

A tentative compromise proposal was worked out close to midnight, and was to be brought to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat for consideration this morning, Israel Radio reported. If approved, it will pave the way for an agreement between the Histadrut and the Treasury.

Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz said yesterday that "the Histadrut gave the Finance Ministry all the time in the world to reach an understanding, and now it feels that it can no longer refrain from action and leave Rafael's workers dangling in the air."



Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah embraces a child dressed in a Hizbullah uniform at a large-scale demonstration in Beirut yesterday to mark 'Jerusalem Day.' Nasrallah vowed that the 'US Satan and the Israel cancer are our eternal enemies.' Demonstrations were also held in Iran. (Reuters)

Keep Jerusalem out of elections - Labor

Likud kicks off campaign alleging Peres plans to redivide capital

LABOR Party Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli proposed yesterday that the Jerusalem issue be removed from the national election agenda; but the Likud plans to kick off its campaign today with Jerusalem being given top billing.

"The entire nation is united on the Jerusalem issue, and there is no sense in raising it as a bone of contention when in fact it is not," Zvilli said. "Moreover, doing so may give the [Arabs] the impression that we really are divided on Jerusalem and there is something to talk about."

But Zvilli's proposal was categorically rejected by the Likud as a sign that "Labor is indeed afraid of this issue, and that means that there is something happening behind the scenes despite all of Labor's denials," the party's spokeswoman said.

As of this morning, the Likud will begin running ads in the press and on billboards claiming that Labor will redivide Jerusalem.

The Likud's campaign will suggest that secret Oslo-style talks are already in progress in Europe about the future arrangements in Jerusalem. Since this follows Prime Minister Shimon Peres's denial, the Likud line in effect challenges Peres's credibility.

Last night Foreign Minister

SARAH HONIG

Ehud Barak attacked the Likud campaign on Jerusalem, especially a sticker which says, "Peres will divide Jerusalem."

"Peres is not dividing and will not divide Jerusalem," Barak said. "The Labor Party and the government led by Peres envision a greater, united Jerusalem, under its sovereignty as its capital forever."

The Jerusalem issue is seen in the Likud as Labor's soft spot, and the one with which the Likud stands the best chance of making some electoral impact.

Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan said last night that he fully supports the idea of making Jerusalem the central theme of the joint Likud-Tsomet campaign.

"Secret negotiations on the division of Jerusalem are already being carried out in Europe, and Zvilli's demand to keep the Jerusalem issue out of the electoral campaigns shows lack of honesty and demonstrates deceit, just as the Labor Party decided that the consensus on the Golan Heights issue in the last elections meant the subject could be taken off the agenda, only to later agree to give the Golan Heights to Syria with nothing in return," he said.

Polls published over the weekend show Peres maintaining a steady lead, with very close to the 50 percent majority needed for a first-round victory. His lead over Netanyahu remains at about 15

percent, though one poll, Gallop, brings the gap up to 18 percent in Peres's favor.

The polls also show a fall for the Likud-Tsomet bloc rather than a rise in fortunes. According to surveys taken at mid-week, the Likud and Tsomet now stand to amass less Knesset seats on a joint ticket than they would have together on separate lists.

While campaigning is already under way, there is still no date for early elections. Labor sources say their election team will meet their opposition counterparts this week and then set a date within a few days. The earliest this can occur is tomorrow, but most Labor sources doubt it will happen this quickly.

The problem now is a clear linkage by Labor between the election date and legislative amendments on propaganda. Labor wants election ads limited to the low-rated Channel 1, while the Likud refuses to be banned from the more popular Channel 2. Labor also wants to abolish the law that forbids featuring any candidate on the electronic media for the month preceding elections day. But the opposition fears this would give a clear advantage to the government, saying the media is already left-leaning.

If the opposition accedes to Labor's demands, it is believed Labor will be more inclined to let the opposition pick the election date it prefers.

(Continued on Page 2)

IDF officer, 5 SLA soldiers wounded in S. Lebanon

SOUTH Lebanon was quiet yesterday after extensive clashes on Friday in which an IDF officer and five South Lebanese Army soldiers were wounded in Hizbullah attacks.

Two Hizbullah gunmen were reported killed and two others wounded in the heavy exchanges, along with a nine-year-old Lebanese girl in Tibait village north of the security zone who was also hurt.

During the exchanges, Lt. Edoan Gutman was hit in the legs by shrapnel. He was treated at the scene and later evacuated to Haffa's Rambam Hospital where he underwent surgery and was later in moderate condition, and improving last night.

Gutman, a deputy platoon commander, was last year awarded a commendation by the head of the Armored Corps for his actions against terrorists in Lebanon.

The fierce fighting erupted just before 6 a.m. Friday when Hiz-

DAVID RUDGE

bulah unleashed a barrage of Katyusha rockets, mortars, Sagger missiles and RPG fire at IDF and SLA positions along the entire length of the zone, from the coast to the foothills of Mt. Hermon in the east.

Hizbullah announced that the attacks were to mark "Jerusalem Day" and the deaths of two of the organization's leaders, former secretary-general Sheikh Abbas Musawi and Sheikh Rabeq Harb, founder of the Islamic Resistance, Hizbullah's fighting arm.

Musawi and his family were killed on February 17, 1992, in an attack by IAF helicopters as they were returning from a memorial service in Jibsheet village, north of the zone, for Harb who was himself assassinated around the same date in 1984.

Hizbullah has mounted big operations to mark the anniversaries of their deaths over the years. This time, however, the dates co-

incided with the last Friday of Ramadan, which the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini declared as Liberation of Jerusalem Day, giving Hizbullah every incentive to try something more spectacular.

Friday's bombardment was the fiercest and most widespread for many months in south Lebanon, prompting massive retaliatory fire by IDF and SLA gunmen.

Gutman was hit and three SLA soldiers were lightly wounded by the Hizbullah barrage, while another two were slightly hurt when a roadside bomb was detonated alongside their armored personnel carrier in the zone's eastern sector.

A senior Northern Command officer said Hizbullah gunmen had once again made "cynical use" of villages north of the zone and their residents as a "human shield" for launching the long-range attacks.

He noted that Hizbullah gunmen (Continued on Page 2)

Aloni: National religious camp bred Amir and Goldstein

"THE national religious camp, Hanan Porat and his lot are the breeders of Yigal Amir, Baruch Goldstein and the Jewish underground," Meretz's Communications Minister Shuamit Aloni said yesterday.

She was reacting to a Friday night TV interview in which Prime Minister Shimon Peres said he would aim to include the religious parties in the government he will form after the victory he expects in the coming elections.

Peres spoke Friday on Channel 3's Weekly Column interview program, where he asserted that "breaking the historical alliance between Labor and the religious parties was a mistake. It was because of this that we lost in 1977. There is a consistent attempt to cultivate the myth that I was responsible for that loss, but in effect Labor did not lose but could not form a coalition because the

SARAH HONIG

National Religious Party had veered right."

Peres then said he would "very much wish to include religious elements in my next coalition, even if this would mean problems which Meretz would then create."

This caused Aloni to speak of "Hanan Porat and his lot," as "being the the extreme right. No coalition in which they take part can possibly continue the peace process and this will give rise to a terrible intifada."

Porat retorted that "it is curious that those who yell loudest about political incitement are the very ones who are so eager to malign the entire national religious sector and taint it with the stigma of Yigal Amir. This kind of demagoguery does not even

merit reply. We will campaign from door to door in an effort to save Eretz Yisrael from Meretz."

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid wondered "what my friend Shimon suggests. Does he want to further peace with Syria with the help of the NRP and a settlement with the Palestinians with the aid of Tsomet?"

Last night, NRP MK Avner Shuki told Channel 1 that the NRP wouldn't join a government which will give up the Golan and territorial contiguity in Judea and Samaria.

Meanwhile former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat - who during his tenure was nominally a Likud member, despite his consistently ultra-dovish outlook - will head a non-partisan Citizens for Peres group, which will be able to run ads and raise funds outside what is allowed the parties and the candidates themselves.

Ayalon takes over today as GSS head

ON LEVY

ADM. Ami Ayalon takes over as head of the General Security Service today replacing Karmi Gillon, in a brief ceremony to be attended by Prime Minister and Defense Minister Shimon Peres.

Ayalon was asked to take the GSS post about a year ago but refused, preferring to stay on as OC Navy. However, when Gillon announced he was stepping down following Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, Gillon met with Ayalon and asked him to take over, promising his complete backing. Gillon later recommended Ayalon to Peres.

Ayalon, who joined the navy in 1963, took part in the daring raid on Green Island in 1969, was wounded and received the Medal of Valor. During the Yom Kippur War, he commanded a battalion that sank an Egyptian vessel in the Gulf of Suez. He was later named commander of the naval commandos, which received a special citation from the chief of staff in 1981 for carrying out 22 consecutive operations without any casualties.

Buchanan Web site blames Mossad for Clinton aide's death; calls Hillary an agent

THOMAS O'DWYER

THE Anti-Defamation League has protested to presidential hopeful Pat Buchanan about "fantastical and highly offensive anti-Israeli conspiracy mongering" in an article on the Buchanan campaign's official Internet site.

The article, in a series titled "Other News You Might Have Missed," blames the Mossad for the death of Vince Foster, a former close aide of President Bill Clinton. The article charges Hillary Clinton with being a Mossad agent.

Attention is being drawn to the article by another Internet site, the Jewish Communications Network (JCN), which is monitoring the US presidential race from a Jewish perspective.

"This will only fuel the American Jewish community's distrust of Buchanan," comments editor Larry Yudelson on the JCN site.

The JCN says that while Buchanan cannot be personally held responsible for the unsigned article, it is still on the official campaign site and reflects some of the attitudes of people that ally themselves with Buchanan.

The article in question, posted to the site under the name "Me-

broken into the databases of more than 50 foreign intelligence agencies, including the Mossad.

"It is how the CIA found out Foster was working for the Mossad, after learning that someone in our government was delivering highly sensitive computer codes to the Israelis... Found along with Foster's name in the Mossad data base was that of Hillary Clinton."

Computer owners can find the Buchanan campaign site by first connecting to the JCN site at <http://www.jcn18.com/election>, which contains links to the relevant material.

Campaign story, Page 4

Rabin lives - in Jordan

AMMAN (AP) - "Yitzhak Rabin is not dead," declared Rajai Abdul-Kader, a Jordanian admirer of the late prime minister.

"He was born again and he's amongst us," said farmer Abdul-Kader, referring to his newborn baby son whom he named after Rabin in recognition of Rabin's work for peace.

Abdul-Kader said he was fond of Rabin because he "has broken the psychological barrier between us and [the Israelis]," when he signed a peace treaty with Jordan in October 1994. "When my wife was pregnant, I prayed to God to have a baby boy so that I could name him 'Yitzhak Rabin' after the peace soldier," he said in a newspaper interview published yesterday.

"I became more determined to give the name to my son when I saw the man falling dead on television at the hands of the enemies of peace. My wife encouraged me. When she delivered, she shocked the doctors by saying without hesitation that she named the newborn 'Yitzhak Rabin.'"

Abdul-Kader said he and his wife are contemplating a visit to Israel to meet with Rabin's widow, Leah, and other family members to show them "Yitzhak Rabin junior."

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The Farrakhan phenomenon

EVEN ardent combatants in the fight for racial equality, who stoutly believe they understand the bitterness, frustration and resentment of Afro-Americans, find it difficult to rationalize the latest Louis Farrakhan escape.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ELECTION OBSERVATION

Sir, - We have read your editorials of January 24 and 26 about the Palestinian elections with some surprise. Both give the impression that the elections were fraudulent and that the international observers did not monitor the most important processes.

ETHNIC BLANKS

Sir, - As far as Israel is concerned, "We don't need you any more" was the heartwarming message delivered by the author A.B. Yehoshua to the Diaspora leaders at the recent Jerusalem conference of the WJC (January 24).

JEWS IN GERMANY

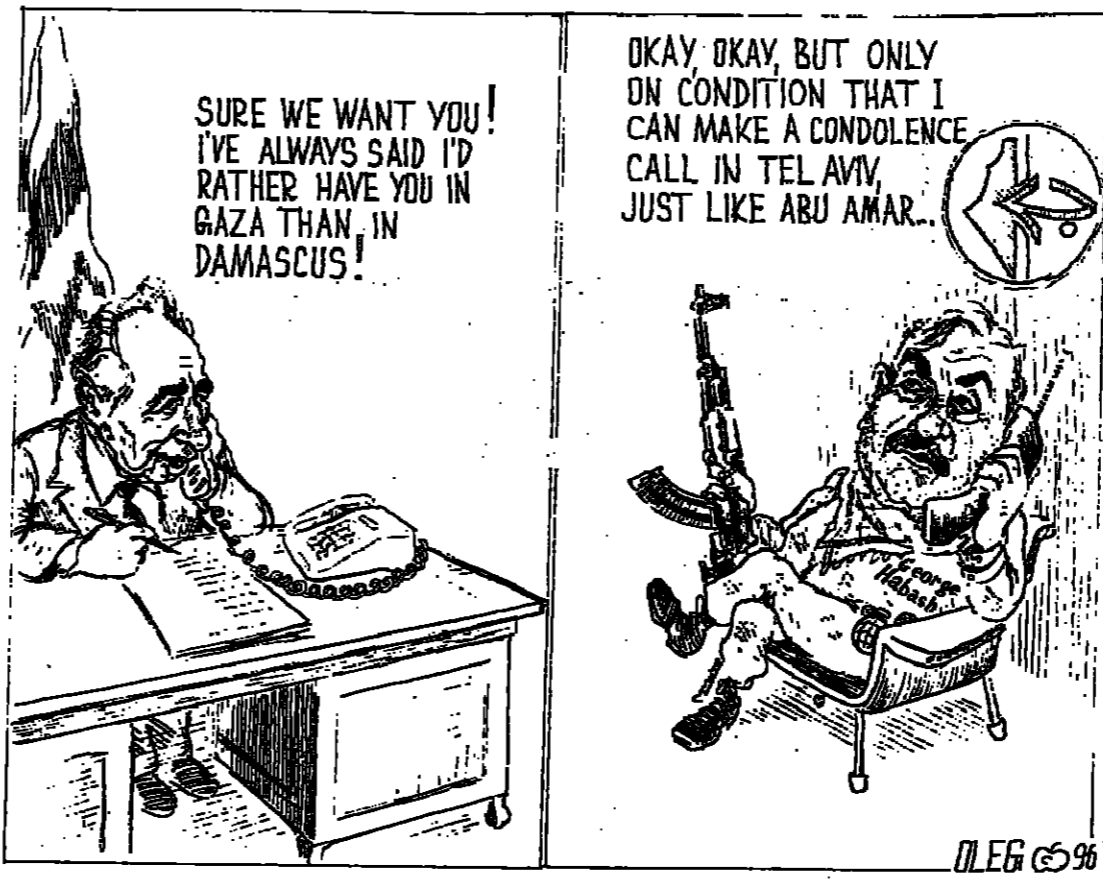
Sir, - On page 3 of The Jerusalem Post of January 30, Marilyn Henry writes that there are 60,000 Jews in Germany. On page 4, Erik Kirschbaum writes that there are 40,000. Quite a discrepancy.

THE FOUR NOES

Sir, - With early elections around the corner, it is becoming boring to see and hear on Israel television that the Likud, if elected to power, has no "plan" for peace.

THE FILM INDUSTRY

Sir, - I refer to your article in Money Magazine of January 17, "The last picture show?" Our movie industry is a mess. All the talented people are leaving because you simply cannot make a living in films here.



To kill, to cure

BARON L. MILLER

THERE'S a slogan that says humans aren't the only species on earth; we just act like it. In the midst of reports of a bone marrow transplant from a baboon to a human AIDS patient, it's something to think about.

A secular wilderness

GABRIEL A. SIVAN

LEADERS of world Jewry are constantly pointing to the erosive effects of religious drift, assimilation, and intermarriage. They organize conferences, reemphasize Jewish educational priorities, and invest huge sums in programs meant to avert the impending national catastrophe.

Baboons have rights, too

variety of experiments, extract tissues from their bodies to inject into AIDS patients, kill them. OF COURSE, if we were to treat humans this way we would be labeled psycho-socialists, and compared to Nazis.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Passersby examine a Beijing old-timer. The grandmother of a Ming Dynasty official, she died in 1538 at the age of 56. The body was found five years ago, and was so well-preserved her joints

Japicolsa

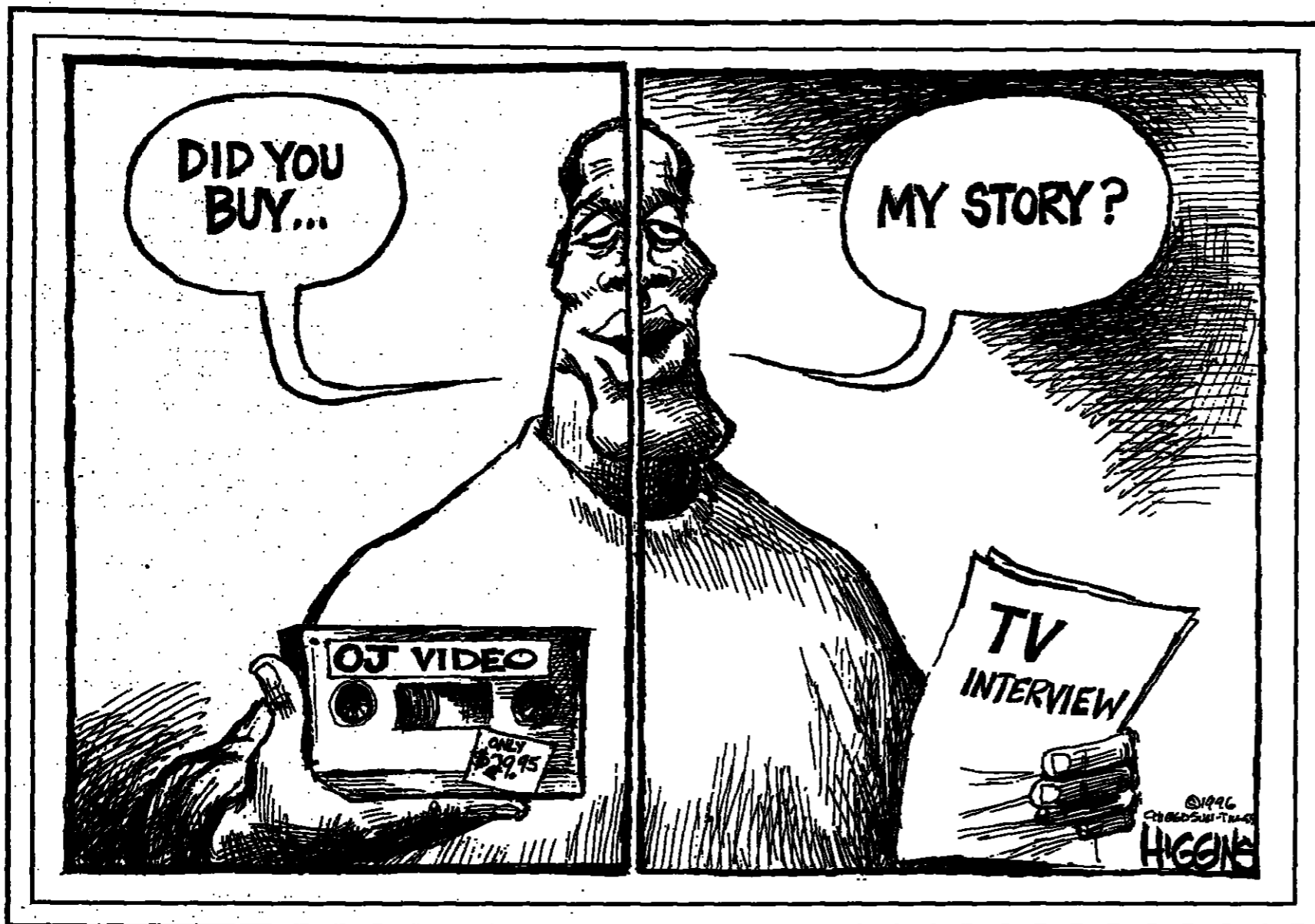
To
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THE JERUSALEM
POST

A review of commentary and humor
from American Press Syndicates

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, February 18, 1996



Downsizing dress

Business casual sweeps country during layoffs

By JAY WEISER

I sat at my desk the other afternoon, dressed in business casual, and wistfully fingered my most recent pay stub. Since Labor Day — and a 45 percent downsizing — we've been allowed to dress more informally to boost staff morale. And I thought as I've thought before: Perhaps it's no coincidence that business casual is sweeping the country just as white-collar job security evaporates.

In the beginning, for men who were managers or professionals in big organizations, there was the suit. In "Sex and Suits", Anne Hollander traces its origin to the 1780s, but the modern ensemble of jacket and pants in a single wool fabric, dress shirt and vertical tie dates from the era of the first great industrial bureaucracies about a century ago. In Edward Steichen's 1908 photographs, Teddy Roosevelt and William H. Taft look just like suited folk today, some minor differences in lapel size and collars aside. John Molloy's classic "Dress for Success" (1975) called the suit "the central power garment — the garment that establishes our position... in any in-person business situation," and described in absurd detail the appropriate fabrics, patterns and colors for suits and their associated shirts and ties. In the 1980s, acceptable professional wear for men became louder — blue shirts with white collars, bright suspenders, wild ties — but the suit remained invulnerable until the advent of casual Fridays around 1991.

By 1992, a year of lingering slow-motion Depression, a survey by Dockers manufacturer Levi Strauss showed that 26 percent of companies had a dress-down day. Now nearly three-quarters of the largest companies, including General Motors, Ford, Mobil, Chrysler, General Electric and even the conservative hold-out IBM, encourage casual dress for the office at least some of the time.

But, unfortunately, dressing down seemed to go hand-in-hand with downsizing. Since 1989, about 3 million people have been laid off from their jobs. There has been some improvement — downsizings have apparently been decreasing since 1993, and in November 1995, unemployment was a relatively low 5.6 percent — but insecurity is rampant. Forty-three percent of white-collar workers who lost their jobs in the 1991-92 recession have had to settle for lower pay, and nearly 40 percent of the major firms that downsized in 1994 boosted hours for the survivors. Lifetime employment in one company is now dead, and portable skills your only shelter. In this

anxious environment, business casual seems, as Deloitte & Touche Atlanta managing partner David Passman put it, "a no-cost benefit." Too bad that real-dollar wages and benefits — the kind you live on — are down 5.5 percent since 1987. But in your Nautica ensemble, the new business-think goes, you'll feel blissful anyway.

Of course, business casual isn't merely a scheme to turn employees trembling beneath the budget axe into smiley worker bees. For one thing, many employees like it. And besides, a whole array of social forces — from the upstart entrepreneurship of the '80s to the influx of women into management — helped ensure the rise of business casual. In "Dress for Success", John Molloy had extolled the IBM uniform of dark suits and white shirts, arguing that the right look imbued companies with esprit de corps. But within a few years, IBM was rocked by innovative Silicon Valley companies, where computer geeks ran the show and dress codes were unheard of. Meanwhile, the new generation of professional women, lacking a business uniform as standard as men's, veered between dressing as frilly non-players or as power-suited yuppies-from-hell. It was an unappealing choice, but male co-workers still envied women's relative freedom and fantasized about going tie-less.

Perhaps it's no coincidence that business casual is sweeping the country just as white-collar job security evaporates.

Within the business world, informality has spread well beyond business casual, and its influence has sometimes been deceptive. Nowadays, for example, convention would expect middle managers in many big companies to call the CEO by his first name. But are they really any more equal than they would have been 30 years ago, when they would have addressed him as "Mr."? In fact, informality masks an increasingly hierarchical power structure within companies, just as Gingrichian rhetoric about the "Opportunity Society" masks increasing economic inequality. In his 1995 book, "Company Man," Anthony Sampson calls today's modern big corporations "monarchies" compared to the committee-run firms of 20 years ago. Monarchy is reflected in salary: today's typical American CEO makes 190

times the compensation of the typical American worker; 20 years ago the multiple was only 40.

And the truth is, business casual isn't quite as casual as it seems. It doesn't, after all, mean dressing as you would at home, with comfort or self-expression the paramount concerns. It has its own rules, even if they aren't always explicit. That's why it can actually be harder to get right than the old uniform was. (The helpful Levi Strauss has issued "A Guide to Casual Businesswear," while Neiman Marcus offers a free video and Marshall Field sells a book on the subject.)

In the emerging casual consensus, T-shirts and torn jeans are taboo; as are the hip-hop fashions of African American teen-agers and the lawn-mowing outfits of the suburban gentry. Preppie, however, is in, along with natural fabrics and understated designer stuff. The idea, as a Cleveland Plain Dealer service article for women puts it, is to "dress one level above," but not to be so fancy or high-style that you're conspicuous. I got the message; on my emergency business casual shopping spree, I acquired two Ralph Lauren Polo sweaters. (I rationalize that Ralph's fake-English clothes really are designed for my lifestyle, since we're both from New York's outer boroughs.) My new Gap khakis probably aren't too declassé, though I worry whether the cotton twill fabric is as lustrous as Tommy Hilfinger's.

Despite these subtle gradations, dress distinctions between professionals and the support staff are now blurred, except on the rare occasions when outsiders are visiting and the rules demand the old uniform.

As companies have gotten more monarchical, all their employees have become sans-culottes. The functional and symbolic reasons for distinctive dress have diminished. The newly industrialized society that gave birth to the suit has metamorphosed into a mass service economy, with a relatively small proportion of the population laboring in dirty jobs that require plain, easily washable clothes. College-educated workers — the former suit-wearing classes — are now nearly as likely to lose their jobs as blue-collar workers. The image that comes to mind is from Busby Berkeley's "Gold Diggers of 1933" — those endless ranks of jobless World War I veterans trudging through the Piranesian production number "My Forgotten Man." Nowadays, they'd wear khakis and pinpoint oxford shirts instead of uniforms and helmets. Progress — of a sort.

Jay Weiser is a lawyer living in New York.

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Republican leaders back Buchanan to assist Dole

By ROBERT NOVAK

Newly elected Louisiana Gov. Mike Foster gave conservative commentator Pat Buchanan a valuable endorsement in his state's Feb. 6 presidential caucuses only after first checking with Sen. Bob Dole's campaign and getting its approval.

With 21 out of 31 Republican governors endorsing Dole, Foster called Dole headquarters to see whether Dole would object if he backed Buchanan. Foster's endorsement contributed to Buchanan's upset win over Sen. Phil Gramm.

Dole was more than willing to undermine Gramm. Not only does he personally dislike him, but Dole strategists view Gramm as a potentially greater threat than Buchanan. Before the Louisiana caucuses, Dole operatives surreptitiously helped Buchanan win the Alaska straw poll in which Gramm finished fourth.

GOP'S COLIN POWELL

Gen. Colin Powell, who declared himself a Republican in the same Nov. 8 speech in which he declined to run for president, has turned aside all requests to help his new party.

Powell rejected a recent offer to deliver the Republican rebuttal to one of President Clinton's Saturday radio addresses. Kenneth Duberstein, the longtime GOP operative who is Powell's closest political adviser, conveyed the general's regrets. For now, Powell is "lying low," said Duberstein.

That fit Powell's pattern of routinely declining invitations for news media interviews, not to mention overt political speeches. His lone activity as a partisan Republican was to attend GOP National Chairman Haley Barbour's big fund-raiser in Washington last month.

DOES PANETTA RULE?

The White House is putting out the word that Chief of Staff Leon Panetta will maintain tight personal control over President Clinton's 1996 campaign, exercising the right of approval over hiring any new staffers and all expenditures.

Panetta is also described as being ready to impose a heavy hand against campaign spending for limousines and other extravagances. The Clinton high command wants to avoid the glitzy image of President George Bush's losing re-election effort in 1992.

These assertions of Panetta's authority may be intended to counter reports in the Democratic community that Clinton will be his own campaign chief of staff. Some of Panetta's friends fear his concentration on the budget in recent months has led the president to assume control in the political arena.

TAXING POLITICS

The \$6,420 error in an anti-flat tax TV commercial on Dole's behalf against publisher Steve Forbes can be blamed on New Hampshire Gov. Steve Merrill, general chairman of the senator's national campaign.

Forbes blamed the Dole campaign for feeding erroneous data to the governor, who narrated the TV spot. In fact, Merrill supplied the faulty information. When Dole campaign officials asked him where he got the tax calculations, the governor said they came from a news story in the Manchester Union-Leader.

Dole aides privately admit that Merrill's analysis blundered in failing to consider that, under the Forbes plan, the first \$36,000 in income for a family of four is exempted from taxation. That error turned a \$4,420 annual tax savings into a \$2,000 increase. Nevertheless, Dole's campaign did not want to offend either Merrill or the Union-Leader and did not kill the inaccurate commercial.

INTERNATIONAL ODD COUPLE

The oddest couple at last weekend's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, was spotted at breakfast in the Seehof Hotel the morning of Feb. 4: billionaire New York-based financier George Soros and Russian Communist leader Gennadi Zyuganov.

Soros, an aggressive tribune of world capitalism, was engaged in heated conversation with Zyuganov over the Sunday morning breakfast table from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

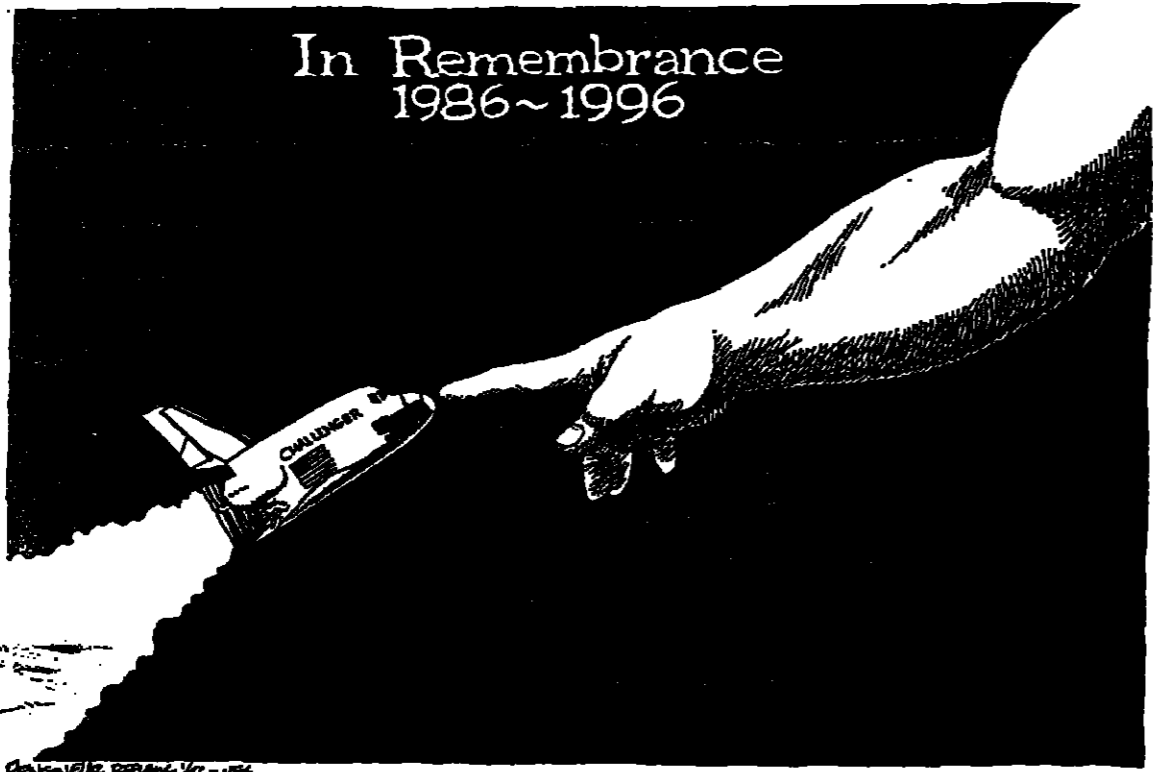
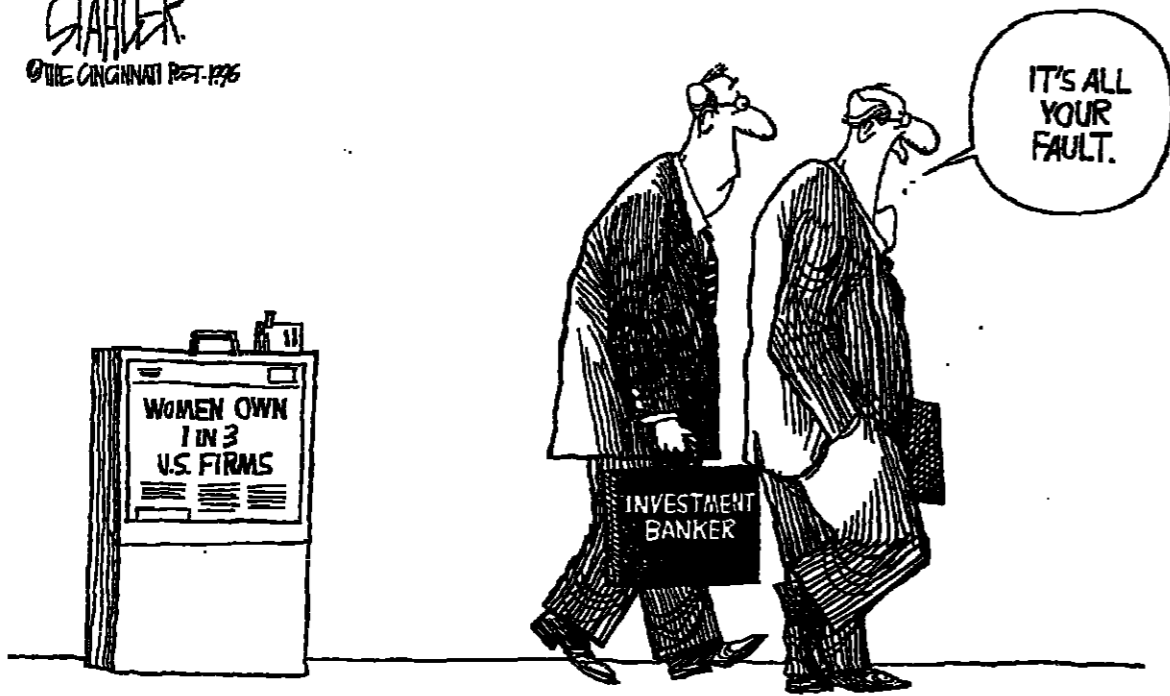
Zyuganov, leader of Russia's resurgent Communist Party, came to Davos to reassure international investors — such as Soros — by promising to "create a climate of confidence" that their funds will be safe in Russia.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

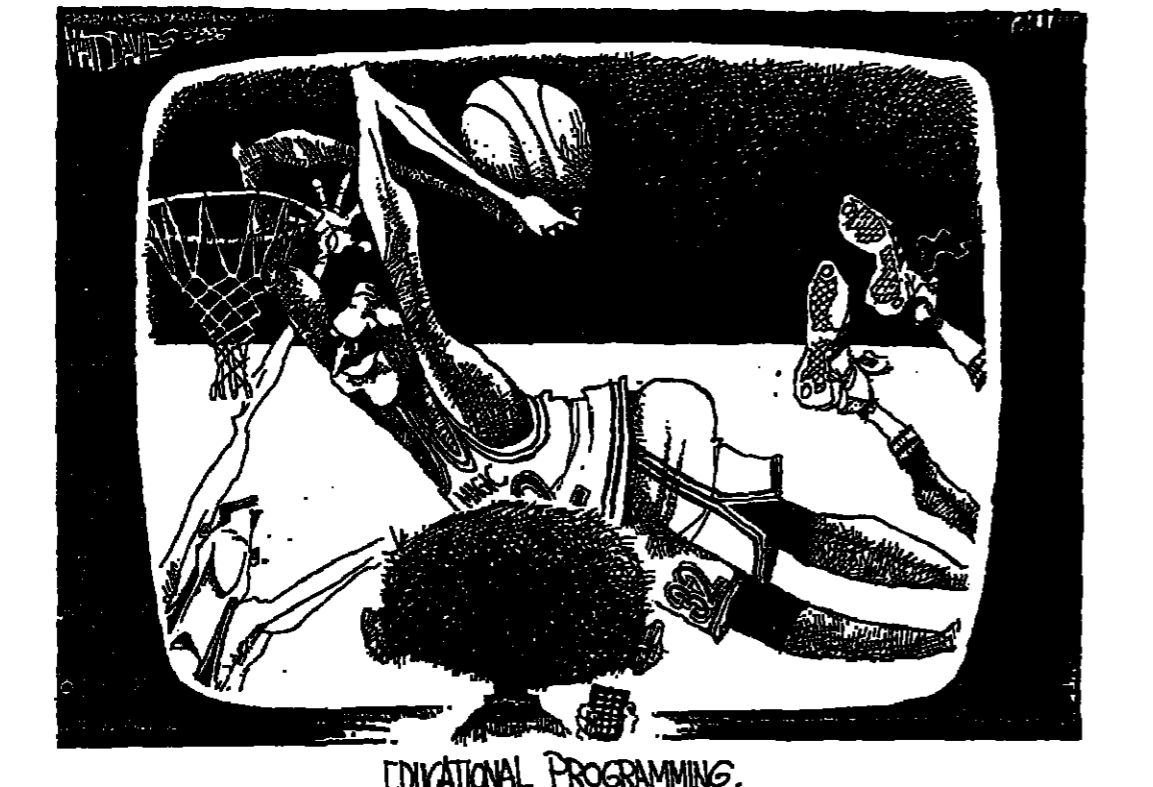
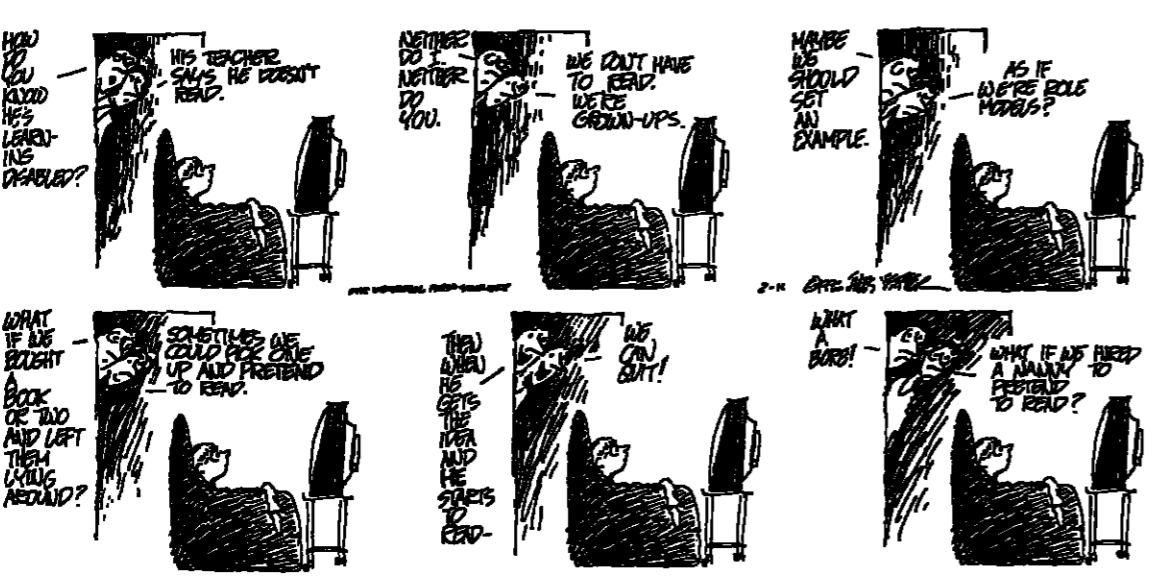
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EDITORIAL CARTOONS

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FEIFFER



Kassebaum-Kennedy guard against insurance loss during job mobility

BY JONATHAN CHAIT

Go back, if you can bear it, to the great health care debate of 1994. Bob Dole, then Senate minority leader, touted a series of increasingly modest alternatives to President Clinton's slowly dying plan. After the reform effort collapsed, Dole promised to come right back in January and make health reform the Senate's top priority.

Need we point out that it hasn't quite turned out that way? Since the Republicans took control of Congress, they have considered no health insurance reforms even approaching the breadth of the ones they themselves proposed such a short time ago. Why the foot dragging? The long answer is complex. The short answer: Bob Dole.

PROMISE

The effort began with promise. On July 13 of last year, Republican Nancy Kassebaum and Democrat Ted Kennedy jointly introduced a bill that would force insurance companies to offer coverage to those who change or lose their job. It wasn't a panacea, and did nothing for people without insurance at all. Rather, it kept those already in the insured category from falling out. Someone who switched employers couldn't be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition, for instance. This would alleviate "job lock," allowing workers to advance their careers without fear of losing their insurance. You don't need to get weepy over the plight of the anxious middle class to appreciate the importance of this: mobility of labor is a key part of any market economy.

This logic is widely shared; the GOP's 1994 health care plans, including Dole's, contained this provision. After sailing through committee without dissent in August, Kassebaum-Kennedy picked up 44 co-sponsors — 23 Democrats and 21 Republicans — and waited for a floor vote. And waited. And waited. More than five months later, President Clinton in his State of the Union speech urged a cheering Congress to pass the measure. At this point,

The Washington Post reported that Kassebaum-Kennedy had been snuffed out by a half-dozen senators carrying out a procedure called a "hold." This allows a senator to anonymously request that the majority leader refrain from holding a vote on a bill. It's a practice designed to allow senators to briefly delay a vote due to, say, a scheduling conflict. Recently, it's evolved into a secret, one-man filibuster. Democracy in action! Of course, the majority leader can

Republican Nancy Kassebaum and Democrat Ted Kennedy jointly introduced a bill that would force insurance companies to offer coverage to those who change or lose their job.

overturn a hold by bringing it to a vote. After Kassebaum finally lost her patience and complained publicly, Dole agreed to bring the bill to the floor — but not for three months, so that opponents have time to pick it apart.

POPULAR

Why would anyone put the kibosh on such cuddly, popular legislation? A segment of the health insurance industry argues that it will raise premiums. It will, although not nearly as much as the industry claims. (The American Academy of Actuaries predicts a hike of about 2 percent, or one-tenth of what opponents foresee.) Anytime you force the industry to insure people more likely to get sick, it's going to raise premiums on the healthy. By eliminating one method of keeping out high risks, Kassebaum-Kennedy forces insurance companies to compete on quality and efficiency rather than on who can find the sneakiest way to exclude risky cases. Those insurance companies that have thrived on exclusion justifiably feel threat-

ened, and they have allies (and campaign donation recipients), in the GOP's hard right wing. To date, these allies haven't been held publicly accountable.

POSITIONS

And where does Dole stand? ABC News asked him in an interview a couple weeks ago:

Interviewer: So, you have no idea? Supposedly, some senators have holds on.

Dole: Lots of holds on it.

Interviewer: Why is that?

Dole: They don't want it to pass.

Interviewer: Why?

Dole: Well, you have to ask them. I don't have a hold.

Interviewer: But you support it, don't you?

Dole: I don't have a hold on it.

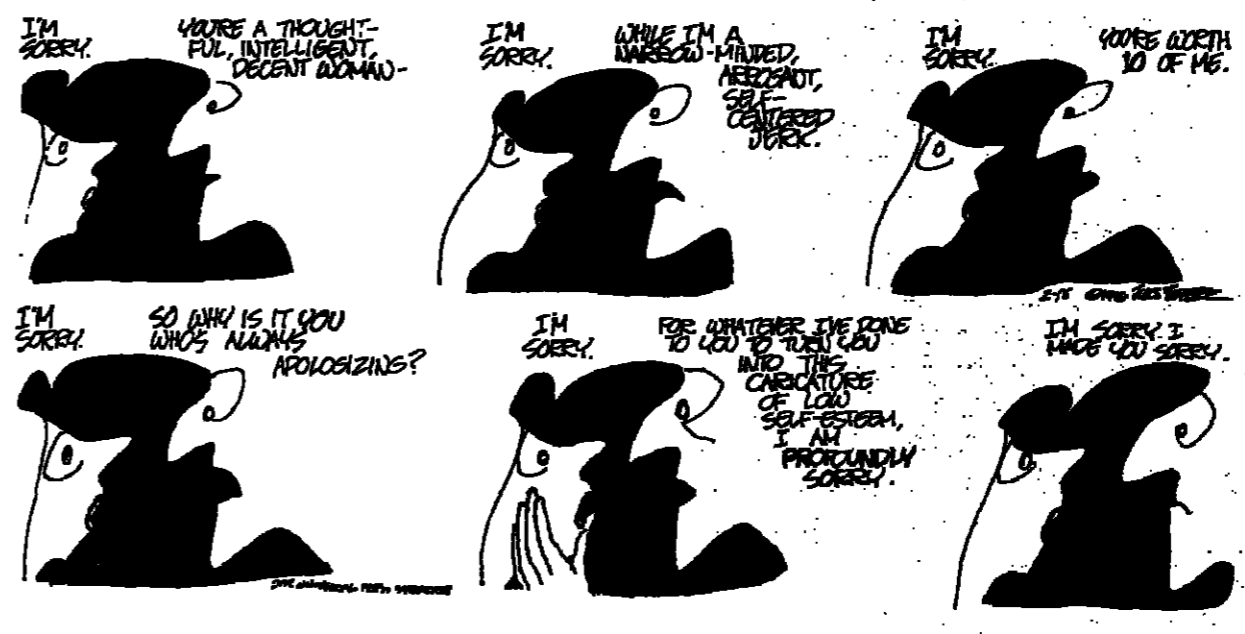
Two years ago, most everyone agreed we had serious health care problems: escalating costs, large numbers of uninsured. Under market pressure, costs have come down in the private sector; but in Medicare and Medicaid, the cost explosion still threatens to bankrupt the federal government. To their credit, Republicans have tried to tackle this crisis (to their discredit, Clinton has demagogued it). But the problem of the uninsured remains. Kennedy-Kassebaum is a sane, modest step to keep that number from growing and to allow those already insured some modicum of freedom in the labor market. In killing the Clinton plan in 1994, Republicans argued for exactly this approach. It's time to see if they really meant it.

Jonathan Chait is a senior editor of *The New Republic*.

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SUNDAY COMICS

Doonesbury

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PEANUTS

PEANUTS IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF CHARLES M. SCHULZ. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Strip

By Jeff Meyers

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Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Watterson

CALVIN AND HOBBS IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF BILL WATTERSON. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

WHOOOPS! WHOOOPS!

YOU'RE 5 MINUTES LATE.

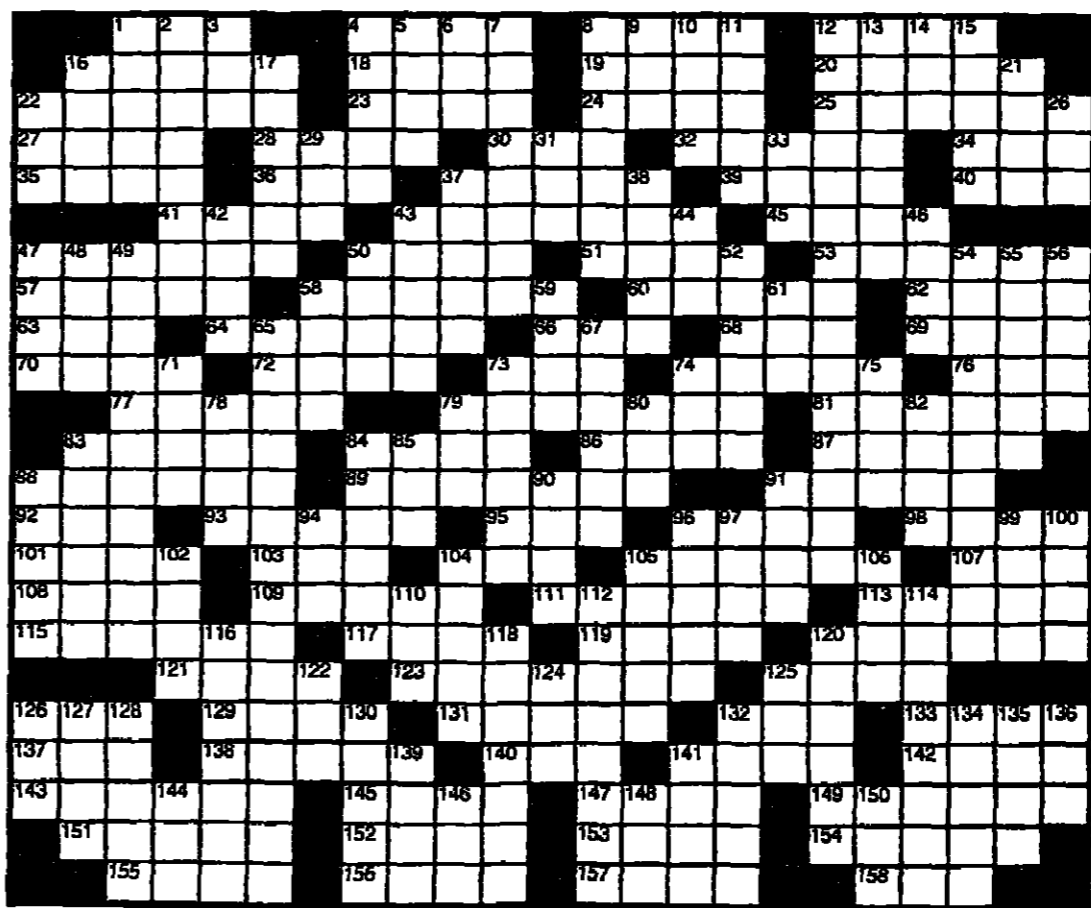
IT'S GOD'S FAULT.

YOU CAN'T JUST GO AROUND BLAMING GOD FOR YOUR OWN BLUNDERS.

WHY NOT? ... HE INVENTED THE LAW OF GRAVITY, DIDN'T HE?

TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 — He, He
 - 4 Wicked
 - 6 Printer's direction
 - 12 Dry
 - 18 Die in a bee
 - 19 Actor Luguel
 - 20 French wine
 - 22 Butcher
 - 23 Smile broadly
 - 24 Wheel shaft
 - 25 Spore jacket
 - 27 Field
 - 28 Always
 - 30 — voyage
 - 32 Follow
 - 34 Old name for Tokyo
 - 35 Small amount
 - 36 Fishing gear
 - 37 Well-known
 - 38 Flow — Pak
 - 40 Not used
 - 41 Work force
 - 43 Name (Baltimore)
 - 45 Instance
 - 47 Engaged, like poem
 - 50 Animal skin
 - 51 Verbs (Baltimore)
 - 53 Cleared
 - 57 Stranger
 - 58 She lost her sheep
 - 60 Type of boom
 - 62 "Ruler" (Baltimore) carpenter
 - 63 Edge
 - 64 Made fun of
 - 68 CIA's predecessor
 - 69 — I saw Elmer
 - 69 Pige native
 - 70 Dogpatch cartoonist
 - 72 Cain's brother
 - 73 Kids' sleeping
 - 74 Charming word
 - 76 Pair for prof.
 - 77 Money
 - 78 — Camp
 - 81 More religious
 - 83 Gold or zinc
- DOWN**
- 1 Salt support
 - 2 Common
 - 3 Common
 - 4 Placed
 - 5 Serves
 - 6 Rock union
 - 7 Atomic verbally
 - 8 Fish stew
 - 9 John Ritter's dad
 - 10 — Stanley Gardner
 - 11 General directing
 - 12 Certain lawyer
 - 13 Set free
 - 14 Actress Lupino
 - 15 "Cheaper by the —"
 - 16 Fodder tower
 - 17 Digid
 - 18 Yield
 - 19 Luma fare
 - 20 Ticket information
 - 21 Frontier
 - 22 Italy or Spain
 - 23 Assay
 - 24 Wine word
 - 25 Removed (head)
 - 26 Lock of hair
 - 27 Turner's expense
 - 28 Drive back
 - 29 Comedian Philip
 - 30 Catchall phrase
 - 31 Printer Chapel
 - 32 Lamb's pen name
 - 33 "Treat a pliant"
 - 34 Ermita Cherry
 - 35 Togo
 - 36 New York Indian
 - 37 Fear
 - 38 Menu category
 - 39 Turn aside
 - 40 One in the woods?
 - 41 Witless-the —
 - 42 Apr. 15 org.
 - 43 There's usually a penalty for it
 - 44 Pancy
 - 45 Green stroke
 - 46 Shrimp dish
 - 47 Speck
 - 48 Mrs. Chaplin
 - 49 Mrs. Irene
 - 50 Same: prof.
 - 51 Home resident
 - 52 Home god
 - 53 Type of envelope
 - 54 Stroke
 - 55 Had a bite
 - 56 Trained
 - 57 Baghdad's land
 - 58 Actor Sheriff
 - 59 Oklahoma city
 - 60 Job slang
 - 61 Had debts
 - 62 Vogue competitor
 - 63 Thaw
 - 64 Arthurian lady
 - 65 Snake's poison
 - 66 Chebri of Egypt
 - 67 Sumatran
 - 68 Salvador
 - 69 Twitch
 - 70 Pinel
 - 71 Pungent
 - 72 Favoring
 - 73 Italian woman's title
 - 74 Protected
 - 75 Pale color
 - 76 Cereal grain
 - 77 Old org.
 - 78 Dashed
 - 79 Prohibit
 - 80 Dutch cheese
 - 81 Bridge expert
 - 82 Chateau
 - 83 French painter
 - 84 Eduard —
 - 85 "Doone"
 - 86 Lippell
 - 87 Savory
 - 88 Prong
 - 89 Tavern brew
 - 90 Jacob's son
 - 91 Chinese
 - 92 "Norma —"
 - 93 Fish eggs
 - 94 Fruity spread
 - 95 Negative prof.





The domino theory

BY PETER BEINART

The word has gone out, among those naive enough to still care about Africa, that Burundi is next. To implode, that is. Arranging African nightmares in linear succession is a neat way to divvy up the tiny financial and intellectual resources that America has allotted to the continent. But the approach has its drawbacks. It implies, to start with, that African conflicts — rather than our attention to them — begin and end in sequence. And this leads us to consign African crises to the past not because they've been solved, but because The New York Times has only enough column inches for one Africa crisis at a time. And this means not only that we are surprised when a conflict we assumed to be over regains the spotlight, but that we miss the ways in which an unsolved crisis in one country can set one off in another.

These days, Rwanda has been forgotten; while neighboring Burundi looms large. In Rwanda, you may recall, a crazed Hutu government killed more than 500,000 people, mostly Tutsi, during the terrible spring of 1994. The United States, shell-shocked from its fiasco in Somalia, delayed for months before allowing a new U.N. peacekeeping force to enter the country (the first one had fled as the barbarism began). While the U.S. dawdled, France stepped into the breach, establishing a security zone in the country's southwest and allowing many of its genocidal Hutu clients to use it as a safe conduit into Zaire. And to get Zaire to accept the 2 million Rwandan refugees, France stopped pressuring its dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko, to democratize.

U.S. policymakers regret all of this, of course. But instead of focusing on justice for the victims, they explain, they'd rather move on to preventing genocide the next time around. The best way to atone for our sins in Rwanda, the argument goes, is to prevent them from being repeated. And the place they're most likely to be repeated is Burundi.

The problem with this distinction, however, is that Rwanda's past refuses to stay in the past — or in Rwanda. The situation in Burundi, a low-level civil war between the Tutsi military and Hutu rebels, is awful but probably stable. The biggest threat to that stability doesn't come from anybody in Burundi, but from the million Rwandan Hutus still living in refugee camps in Eastern Zaire. And these refugees are kept there by the fear of Tutsi vengeance, and the inability of the international war crimes tribunal investigating the 1994 genocide to guarantee due process. It's a tidy circle.

The Hutu refugees in Zaire are not twiddling their thumbs. They're troop fodder for an army that might reinvade within a year. Countless reports testify that the former army has retained much of its weaponry, and continues to train. Since there are only two narrow bottlenecks from Zaire into Rwanda, an invasion by the exiled Rwandan government would almost certainly go through Burundi. This could create havoc, with Hutu rebels from Rwanda and Burundi joining forces, and potentially even carving out a Hutu rump state in the north of Burundi and the south of Rwanda, the regions of both countries where Hutu forces are strongest.

It could, in short, lead to a regional meltdown. Rwanda suspects Mobutu's Zaire (correctly) of shielding the former Hutu government from the international war crimes tribunal, and of allowing them to rearm and retrain. So the Rwandan government has said it will not allow the Hutu rebels to launch attacks from Zaire and then return safely across the border. And Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, a longtime supporter of the Rwandan Tutsis (the present government spent years in exile in Uganda, and many of its members are, indeed, Ugandan), would also love to take a swipe at his old enemy Mobutu, and support a Rwandan attack into Zaire.

Arranging African nightmares in linear succession is a neat way to divvy up the tiny financial and intellectual resources that America has allotted to the continent.

All the states mentioned above are driven by ethnic divisions and ruled by essentially illegitimate governments controlled by minority tribes. In a part of the world where borders often have little consequence, it is entirely possible that a Hutu invasion of Rwanda would spread ethnic, civil war throughout the region, creating a swath of territory similar to the one in West Africa where, as Robert Kaplan has observed, brutal, entrepreneurial and non-ideological bands of thugs roam freely between Liberia, Sierra Leone and perhaps soon Guinea.

As the consequences of an explosion in Burundi slowly dawn, an increasingly agonized debate has developed, in the Security Council and on America's op-ed pages, about what to do. Boutros Boutros-Ghali has suggested stationing an African peacekeeping force on

Burundi's border with Zaire, but the Security Council won't go along. And the usual suspects have denounced the U.S. for its indifference. But this is really a sideshow. The important fight is not over Burundi's future, but over Rwanda's past, and it is a fight the U.S. is hardly waging.

The least costly option is for the U.S. to ensure that the war crimes tribunal in Rwanda acquires some teeth. A legitimate judicial process could lure the refugees home, although it would face opposition. If Zaire loses its refugees, it loses the international leverage that allows it to sustain its dictatorship. Kenya, where some high-level Hutu murderers are holed up, also refuses to cooperate because of its ties to Rwanda's former government. And France does not want a judicial process which would expose its collusion with the former government up to, and during, the genocide.

But none of these countries could withstand real U.S. pressure. Kenya desperately needs IMF loans, over which the U.S. has considerable influence. There are powerful people in Zaire's government, like Prime Minister Kengi wa Dondo, who do not share Mobutu's sympathy for the Hutus, and the U.S. could bolster their influence. And does France really want a high-profile showdown on whether the perpetrators of one of this century's worst genocides should go scot free? Besides, it was the Mitterrand government that helped them get away. Chirac doesn't have to take the rap.

The international tribunal, which has so far indicted only eight people, is floundering. And in the absence of a serious U.S. effort, it will never prosecute more than a handful of mid-level functionaries. Meanwhile, 60,000 Hutus rot in unsanitary, Rwandan jails with no prospect of trial or release. Rwanda, after all, doesn't have a single working court. And there is increasing evidence of retaliation by the Rwandan army against those suspected of genocide. Investigators at some grave sites have reportedly found two layers of bodies, the first Tutsi and the second Hutu. Unless the war crimes tribunal is given a chance, it will be impossible to woo back the refugees and stem a return to civil war in Rwanda, and beyond. The conventional wisdom about Rwanda and Burundi — that the best way to atone for the past is to prevent its repetition — is wrong. The best way to prevent darkness from falling once again is to atone for the past.

(Peter Beinart is managing editor of The New Republic.)

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Is gender bias valid in client selection?

BY ALAN DERSHOWITZ

A female lawyer's decision to turn away all male clients has opened a hornet's nest of questions about the nature of a lawyer's duty.

The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination has found "probable cause" to believe that Judith Nathanson, a divorce lawyer, was guilty of gender discrimination, when she told Joseph Stropnicki that she would not represent him simply because he is a male. The facts make it a perfect test case.

Joseph Stropnicki is a "house-husband" whose wife is a medical doctor earning a six-figure income. During their seven-year marriage, he stayed at home taking care of the couple's two children, while she was out practicing her profession and being the bread-winner. Since Judith Nathanson had a good reputation for winning large settlements for housewives against doctors and other professionals, a mediator recommended her to Stropnicki. When Stropnicki asked Nathanson to represent him and to review the draft of a settlement agreement, Nathanson adamantly refused — gratuitously adding that she would be interested in representing his wife. She said that she could never represent a man, regardless of the circumstances, and would never do anything to hurt the interests of a woman.

By making these statements, however, Judith Nathanson may well have hurt many women. Imagine what would happen if male lawyers refused to represent female clients. Since most lawyers are still male and most women clients are still poorer and less powerful than male clients, a gender-apartheid system of legal representation would hurt women far more than men. Moreover, the implications of the Nathanson approach to client selection would return us to the bad old days when white, Anglo-Saxon law firms represented WASPS, Jewish law firms represented Jews, black lawyers represented blacks — and nobody represented most indigent women, Hispanics and other disempowered groups and individuals.

Lawyers have a state-granted monopoly to represent clients in court. Lawyers should not be able to refuse clients on the basis of invidious criteria such as race, religion, gender and national origin. Imagine the following situation. An Islamic woman seeks representation in an important case — say, the state is trying to take her children away. In the particular state in which she lives, there are no Islamic lawyers. If all lawyers were permitted to limit their practices to members of their own religion, race, gender or place of national origin — the Islamic woman might be denied an important right solely on the basis of her religion. That is simply un-American. I hope it will not be tolerated by the legal profession.

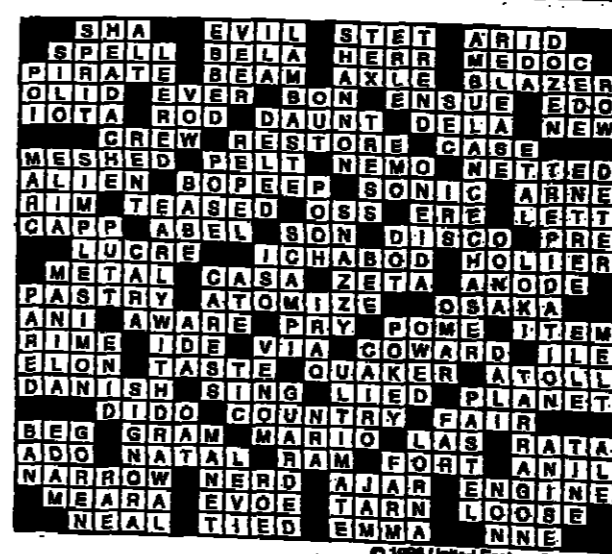
The technical issue before the MCAD is whether a lawyer is a "public accommodation" under the law, since public accommodations may not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, religion or national origin. The courts have already ruled that law firms may not discriminate in the hiring or promotion of lawyers. It is not a long leap to extend that principle to the selection of clients.

Such a ruling would still allow lawyers to select clients on the basis of ideology or expertise. A radical lawyer could specialize in radical causes, a conservative lawyer in conservative causes. An anti-smoking lawyer could not be forced to represent the cigarette industry in its continuing effort to make profits off death, illness, addiction and misery. Nor could a right-to-lifer be required to represent a woman seeking an abortion. But if the only reason a lawyer refused to represent a client is because of race, gender, religion or national origin then that lawyer has engaged in discrimination, pure and simple.

Nathanson will defend her action by arguing that her feminism is her ideology. But racist lawyers could make the same claim, as could other bigots. By winning a large settlement for house-husband Joseph Stropnicki, Nathanson would have been serving the interests of feminism, since far more women than men are in Stropnicki's legal and economic situation. But Nathanson was not acting as a feminist. She was acting as a sexist. It is surprising therefore that her actions were defended by the Chief Counsel for the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union, who said: "A private attorney can decide for any reason to represent or not to represent someone. I think that's entirely up to the attorney." The attorney for the MCAD got the better of the argument, when he pointed out that Nathanson's absolute policy of gender discrimination "perpetuates social injustice." The law must insist that those of us who hold a state-granted monopoly license to perform an important service — whether that service be medicine, law or driving a taxi cab — may not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest books are "The Advocate's Devil" (Warner Books) and "The Abuse Excuse" (Little, Brown & Company).

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Alternatives

Service 1500

Stocks fall back FTSE off 8.9

WALL STREET REPORT WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks retreated Friday for the third day in a row as investors, nervous about a drop in bond prices, continued to extract profits from the high-flying market.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended down 48.05 to close at 5,503.32. Even though it set records Monday and Tuesday, the Dow was off 38.30 points for the week, its first weekly loss since January 12.

On Friday, the blue-chip index lost as much as 52 points in the morning, prompting the New York Stock Exchange to briefly restrict computer-driven sell programs. The market made two stabs at recovering, only to retreat again.

Traders said Friday's "double witching" expiration of options and futures contracts contributed to the volatility. But the pullback was also viewed as a return to more reasonable levels after blistering gains early this week and last week.

Exchange. Trading volume on the floor of the Big Board was heavy at 435.52 million shares at the close, up from Thursday's pace. Broad market indexes were mixed. The NYSE's composite index fell 1.57 to 346.19. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 3.34 to 647.98. But the Nasdaq composite index rose 0.05 to 1,090.59. The American Stock Exchange's market value index rose 1.48 to 561.84.

LONDON (Reuters) - Unsettled by a volatile Dow, the FTSE 100 closed 8.9 off at 3,770.9, but up 54.6 from last Friday after setting a new trading peak of 3,791.6.

FRANKFURT - The 30-share DAX index ended broader trade slightly ahead at 2,429.02, up 6.01 on the day and 17.09 since last Friday. Trade was extremely thin. The IBIS DAX index ended its session down 2.91 at 2,423.60.

PARIS - Shares closed lower under the influence of Wall Street's slide. The CAC 40 index closed down 11.71 at 1,952.50, but up 8.15 for the week.

TOKYO - Shares ended lower, with a fall in New York and worries over a possible rise in interest rates in Japan. The Nikkei finished down 83.42 at 20,802.77, falling 132.05 on the week.

Dollar lower, rand drops

CURRENCY REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Big sell orders pushed the dollar lower against the yen and German mark Friday in a drop exacerbated by flight from the South African rand as President Nelson Mandela had suffered a heart attack.

Mandela's appearance at a picture-taking session with Namibian President Sam Nujoma dismissed the rumors, but the rand still suffered.

Trading was thin ahead of Presidents' Day holiday in the US and the Chinese new year in

much of Asia. Also, a snowstorm in New York sent traders home early, leaving the market vulnerable.

By the close in New York, the dollar was trading at 1.4535 marks, down from 1.4656 on Thursday. It finished at 105.20 yen, compared with 105.55 the day before. The dollar rose to 3.78 rand from 3.6620 Thursday.

The British pound rose to \$1.5520 from \$1.5375. Gold closed in London at \$404.40 per ounce, up from \$404.00. Silver closed at \$5.67 a troy ounce, down from \$5.72.

Crazy kind of downturn

WALL STREET WEEK

NEW YORK (AP) - A funny thing has happened on the way to the current American economic downturn. The US stock market doesn't believe it.

Amid signs of a weakened economy, investors have not only been buying stocks, which often are shunned during economic retractions, they have kept up a steady purchase of cyclical stocks - those which, when the economy stumbles, typically take the worst of the fall.

Peter Canelo, NatWest Securities' market strategist, had a straightforward explanation: The economy really "is basically in very good shape."

This past week the signals were mixed. The Federal Reserve said that in January, industrial production fell 0.6% and the nation's industries operated at 81.9% of capacity, the lowest since No-

vember 1993. First-time claims for jobless benefits rose 21,000 during the week ending February 10. And consumers still do not appear to be in a mood to spend going forward, according to the University of Michigan consumer sentiment index, which slipped to 86.6 so far in February from 89.3 in January.

But there were some signs of strength. Construction spending rose 0.9% in December. Business inventories edged up 0.1%, the smallest increase since March 1994. Durable goods orders rose 2.1% in November and December, exceeding analyst predictions.

Reports of doom and gloom often send investors scurrying out of the stock market altogether, or at least into recession-resistant sectors like food, drugs, and consumer nondurables. Many have indeed responded by cashing in some of the stock market's record profits.

But some have also bought big slugs of deep cyclical stocks. At its peak last Monday, the Morgan Stanley index of cyclical stocks was up 8.5% for the year. The firm's transportation index, also viewed as highly cyclical, rose 8% from the 1996 low of 1,882.71 on January 18 to over 2,035 on Friday.

Cyclical stocks have not kept pace with the Dow Jones industrial average, which at its closing peak of 5,601.23 last Tuesday was up 9.5% for the year.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.



JOIN IDB TELEBANK DIAL 05-5129111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Table with columns: Patah (foreign currency deposit rates), Currency (deposit for), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS, Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates, CHECKS AND TRANSFERS, BANKNOTES, Rep. Rates.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table with columns: Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg. Includes sections for NEW YORK, LONDON, PARIS, and FOREIGN CURRENCY.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table with columns: Fund's name, Unit cost, Redemption price, Monthly yield, Volatility risk, Assets (\$ million). Includes sections for Flexible and Shares.

Key Representative Rates, INFL. STOCK MARKETS, New York market indexes, Other stock market indexes, INFL. MONEY MARKETS, Dollar crossrates (US), Libor rates, Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd., INFL. COMMODITIES AND METALS, US commodities, London commodities, Spot market metals (US), New York metal futures, London metal futures.

THEATRE, CLASSICAL MUSIC, TELEVISION, PERFORMANCES

Ruling soon on H. Amir's request to see evidence

THE Supreme Court will probably rule this week on Haggai Amir's request to see the classified evidence against him, after hearing the request last Friday.

At the hearing, Haggai's lawyer, Moshe Meroz, said he is interested in anything that might indicate that the General Security Service knew of Yigal Amir's desire to assassinate prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, because this might be crucial to his client's defense.

One of the main charges against Haggai is that he knew of his brother's previous attempts to kill Rabin, but did nothing. Haggai argues that he simply did not take his brother seriously. If the

GSS also had information regarding Yigal's previous attempts and future plans, but, despite being professionals, also did not take it seriously, then it would be hard to blame Haggai for making the same mistake, Meroz said.

Yigal told the police that the GSS "knew about him," Meroz said. Yigal also said alleged GSS agent Avishai Raviv had been in on many of the conversations about killing Rabin, and Raviv himself told the police that Yigal had called for such an attempt. He also knew about Yigal's previous attempts. If Raviv was an agent planted in the group for the express purpose of discovering things like that, and either did not

EVELYN GORDON

take it seriously enough to report it, or was ignored by his superiors, this also indicates that Haggai cannot be blamed for similarly ignoring Yigal's statements, Meroz said.

Meroz said he had asked the prosecution whether the GSS had a file on Yigal prior to the assassination, but they refused to answer. He is therefore looking for anything in the classified evidence that might support this line of argument.

In addition, he said, he would like to see the tapes of the confrontations the police and the GSS staged between Yigal and

various other people, including Haggai, Dror Adani, Raviv and Margalit Har-Shefi. The prosecution told him it has no such tapes, and does not know whether they exist, he said, but it would have made no sense for the police to go to the trouble of arranging these confrontations and then not record them.

In particular, he said, he is interested in the meeting between Yigal and Haggai, because he hopes it will provide a clue to why Haggai changed his story immediately after that meeting. Previously, Haggai had denied all knowledge of his brother's

intentions.

"Why should I rely on the side that is bringing my client to trial to decide which evidence is in his favor and which is not?" he demanded, adding that the GSS, which is under public attack for its failure to prevent the murder, might have an interest in hiding evidence of its prior knowledge to cover up its own failings.

It is also possible that this material has been classified to cover up the fact that the GSS had a second agent in the group, Meroz said, or perhaps to hide evidence of another theory which is making the rounds: that the GSS knew, but hoped to catch Yigal in the act, as they did with the Ka-

halani brothers.

"It's as if they're writing 'classified' on everything they don't want me to see," he charged.

Government attorney Nava Ben-Or dismissed Meroz's conspiracy claims, noting that the attorney-general, the State Attorney's Office and the prime minister all have to approve a classified label, and would therefore all have to be part of such a conspiracy. She also insisted that the classified evidence would work against Haggai rather than for him. Most of her arguments were made behind closed doors; she showed the material to Justice Zvi Tal, who said he would try to issue his decision within the week.

WEATHER

Jerusalem 8-15
Tel Aviv 10-18
Haifa 9-19
Tiberias 8-20
Golán 8-18
Alula 8-20
Samaria 9-21
Jerusalem 8-15
Beer Sheva 8-19
Dead Sea 10-22
Eilat 12-24

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. No change in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
Alexandria	18	22	cloudy
Bahia	22	28	cloudy
Bangkok	24	30	cloudy
Buenos Aires	12	18	clear
Chicago	28	34	clear
Frankfurt	10	16	cloudy
Hong Kong	17	23	cloudy
London	10	16	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	24	clear
Moscow	12	18	clear
New York	28	34	clear
Paris	10	16	cloudy
Stockholm	10	16	clear

Haifa merchant murdered at home

THE wife of Haifa office furniture store owner Hani Naharani, 35, was being held by police last night on suspicion of murdering her husband early Friday morning in their home in Ibtan near Kiryat Ata.

The woman was jailed after giving police a strange version of events in which she claimed she had awakened to see a man in black stabbing her husband with a sharp instrument. She is to appear in Haifa Magistrate's Court today for a remand hearing.

Police said signs of violence were found on the body making it clear Naharani was murdered. The body was taken to the Abu Kabir Forensics Institute for an autopsy.

Naharani's wife had been hospitalized in Rambam Hospital for shock, and police were assigned to guard her. Naharani's body was found in the bedroom, and there were signs of a struggle, police said. Police refused to say whether the man was shot or stabbed. The victim had a nine-year-old son and a six-year-old daughter. (Itm)



Elephants given by the King of Thailand as a present to the Tisich Jerusalem Biblical Zoo make their debut on Friday. (Brian Hendler)

Police: Robbery behind murder of cabbie

NO suspects have been arrested yet in Thursday night's murder of a taxi driver, who was shot in the head by two passengers who apparently tried to rob him in Petah Tikva, police said.

The driver, Avi Yavin, 58, picked up two passengers at about 8 p.m. Thursday in the Kiryat Arye area of Petah Tikva. During the ride, it is believed the two tried to rob him and when an argument broke out, one of the passengers shot him. About an hour later, Yavin was found dead in the back seat of his taxi.

Witnesses heard the three arguing in the taxi and alerted police, who later located the taxi.

Yavin, who worked for a taxi company in Ramat Hasharon, will be buried today. He is survived by a wife, two sons, and grandchildren.

Yavin's colleagues said he was an IDF pensioner and they did not believe he could have been murdered during a robbery because he was a quiet type who would never argue and would have given the money rather than risk his life. The police theory that this murder was criminally motivated does not make sense, they said.

However, Sharon District police chief Asst. Cmdr. Bosi Ohayon said police were not ruling anything out and investigating other possibilities.

Taxi drivers will hold a solidarity strike between the hours of noon and 2 p.m. today in honor of the memory of Yavin. (Itm)

Court: Reduce administrative detention of rabbi

SUPREME Court Justice Zvi Tal last week rejected Arye Friedman's appeal of his administrative detention, but recommended that the state consider a "significant reduction" in the term of his imprisonment.

Friedman, 50, is a haredi rabbinical leader who recently moved from Kiryat Arba to Jerusalem. He has 17 children. He was detained for three months on January 11, after being questioned a few times by the police, but he has not been indicted for any offense. The material against

him is all classified, but he is apparently being detained because the security services consider him to hold extremist views, and fear that he might act upon them.

After reviewing the classified evidence, Tal said it seemed that Friedman really might constitute a danger, and therefore decided not to cancel the detention order.

However, he recommended that the state consider "a significant reduction in the period of detention, on the assumption that

the appellant's family situation, and the lesson he has learned from his detention, will have blunted the danger he represents."

At the very least, Tal said, the state should consider releasing Friedman before Pessah. Currently, his detention is due to end on April 9, which falls during the intermediate days of the holiday.

Tal also suggested that Friedman undergo a professional psychological examination, to assess

the validity of the state's fear that he might be suicidal, and try to kill himself in such a way that he would kill several Arabs as well. The state promised to give due weight to the results of such an examination should they turn out to be in Friedman's favor.

Friedman's attorney, Mordechai Mintzer, said he was disappointed in the ruling, because detention without trial is supposed to be used only to prevent an immediate danger. It is not meant to "teach someone a lesson," he said.

Man held for raping stepdaughter

A BAT Yam man was remanded by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Friday for seven days on suspicion of raping his 15-year-old stepdaughter over the past three years.

The man, 57, is suspected of telling the girl that he had to be the first man in her life, and raping her. The girl told police that he raped her in their home, his car and during family vacations.

The girl's stepfather was arrested by juvenile detectives after she tried to commit suicide. She also became a drug addict and started to work as a prostitute to finance her habit.

At first, the stepfather denied the charges but then later confessed. (Itm)

First bat mitzva girl dies at 86

JUDITH Kaplan Eisenstein, the first woman to have a bat mitzva and the eldest daughter of the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, Mordechai Kaplan, died Wednesday in Bethesda, Maryland. She was 86.

Eisenstein, a musician and composer, had her bat mitzva in 1922. "No thunder sounded, no lightning struck" at the ceremony, she said in 1992. But that event, now considered routine for many girls, is seen as the first of many changes that expanded the role of women in Judaism, including their eventual ordination as rabbis in the Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist movements.

Agency debates Diaspora donations

THE Jewish Agency will face conflicting signals from American fund-raisers this week about how much money will end up in the till, when it sets out to work on its budget.

At the grass roots, American agencies are balking at maintaining current funding for Israel, while at the national level there have been pledges made for increased aid.

At meetings beginning today in Jerusalem, the Americans will preview a plan to merge their major fund-raising organizations. The merger hinges on the willingness of some 200 autonomous Diaspora federations to guarantee that for three years they will provide a floor of \$310 million a year for overseas aid. Of that, roughly two-thirds goes to the Jewish Agency.

Facing a huge and growing debt, the Jewish Agency's board of governors hopes to balance its books over the next five years by cutting its budget and by raising an additional \$230m. from the Diaspora, according to a memorandum of the United Israel Appeal dated November 10.

Some observers called the board's expectation of new Diaspora funds "wishful thinking."

A handful of key Diaspora philanthropists have pledged to raise new funds, starting with \$20m. — and increasing by another \$20m. each year — until the year 2000, sources said.

However, the value of that pledge seems doubtful, given the local federations' discomfort with

the guarantee of a floor based on last year's allocation, let alone committing themselves to new funds, sources said.

Meanwhile, advocacy for Israel and the Jewish Agency within the American Jewish community could get short shrift in the future, with a proposed merger that would consolidate the United Jewish Appeal, the United Israel Appeal and the Council of Jewish Federations. UIA, the conduit for funds for the Jewish Agency, would go out of business.

Some say poor fund-raising indicates that Israel is no longer central for American Jews. That argument appears to be countered by a recent report showing that Americans raised \$680m. in 1994 for Israeli non-profit institutions, including universities, hospitals and foundations.

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The LIBI Fund and Friends of LIBI will be holding an auction on Independence Day

of Israeli art, together with items of historic, Zionist and sentimental value, related to the history of the State of Israel.

The auction will take place on Independence Day, April 24, 1996 (5 Iyar 5756) at the Tiroche Gallery, Herzliya and will be broadcast live on the television shopping channel (21).

Anyone interested in donating items for auctioning should contact:

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